

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016**

A Special Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Kaupin in the Enfield Room of the Enfield Town Hall, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, Connecticut on Tuesday, February 23, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL-CALL –Present were Councilors Deni, Hall, Kaupin, Lee, Stokes and Szewczak. Councilor Bosco entered at 5:31 p.m. Councilors Arnone, Cekala, Edgar, and Sarno were absent. Also present were Acting Town Manager, Lee Erdmann; Acting Director of Finance, John Wilcox; Chief Technology Officer, Paul Russell and Intern, Michelle Carroll.

SPECIAL GUEST – SiFi

President of SiFi, Scott Bradshaw, made a presentation.

Mr. Bradshaw explained how an optic cable infrastructure provided by SiFi could create a platform for next generation services and Gigabit internet connectivity. He noted such connectivity could be delivered to residents and businesses throughout the town, and this would help Enfield be better positioned for economic growth. He indicated this would be a public/private partnership with benefits for all parties.

He stated SiFi would pay for this by bringing in local and national internet service providers to offer competing high-speed internet and video services for all local consumers, with SiFi turning the network's infrastructure over to the town after an agreed-upon amount of time, which typically consists of either 20 or 30 years.

Mr. Bradshaw compared this financial agreement to a lease. He explained that SiFi would want to make sure the project would be cost-positive before embarking on it. He noted SiFi would be in charge of building, operating and maintaining the network throughout the length of the long-term lease agreement.

Councilman Bosco questioned the necessity of a referendum to accomplish this, and Mr. Bradshaw responded most communities don't have to go to a referendum.

Mr. Erdmann noted bond counsel would look at this.

Mr. Bradshaw reviewed the "Sustainable Pro-Forma". He noted they stand behind their equipment for a minimum of 30 years.

Chairman Kaupin questioned what's expected from the Town Council. Mr. Bradshaw responded he's looking for a good-faith relationship with the Town for a six month period, during which time he will be spending money to look at the feasibility of this

venture. He noted after this period of time, he will come back to the Council to share what he has learned from the community.

Mr. Erdmann stated they have a draft exclusivity agreement, and if the Council wishes to go forward, this can be included on the first meeting agenda in March.

Chairman Kaupin questioned whether everyone was comfortable with an exclusivity agreement, and there were no objections.

REVIEW OF RESULTS OF GOAL SETTING SESSION 1

Mr. Erdmann reviewed the breakdown which came out of the first goal setting workshop. He noted the next step is to confirm five objectives. Those objectives are as follows:

Economic Development

Complete TOD Master Plan and related zoning

Improve retail climate

- Business district improvement
- Improve connectivity

Corridor & Village improvements

Fiber optics network

Business retention & recruitment

Secure funding for construction of Enfield train station on Hartford line

Establish feasibility for additional industrial property development

Neighborhood beautification & blight

Impact of regional casino

Councilor Hall questioned if a casino is off the table, and what could Enfield gain from a casino. Mr. Erdmann stated the tribes are in negotiations with several towns, but he does not know how detailed those negotiations are.

Councilor Hall questioned the possibility of meeting with the tribes to see what they have to offer.

Councilor Stokes stated he would be for listening to a detailed plan, and he believes the next step would be for a conversation with the players.

Chairman Kaupin stated his belief such a discussion should be at the staff level.

Education

School Security – fund planning

Facilities

- Playscapes
- Fields

- Buildings
- Strengthen partnership between agencies
- Social Services
 - Schools
 - Public Safety
 - Youth Services
 - Shared Services
- Renew IT Memorandum of Understanding
- Completion of Enfield High School renovations

Environment, Energy & Sustainability

Repacking energy performance referendum

Insurance – fiscal sustainability

Complete solar zoning

Splash Park

Broader aquatics plan

Finish skateboard park

Investigate rail to trail conversion (Hazardville)

Investigate cricket field & disc golf

Scantic River Subcommittee follow-through

Infrastructure & Facilities

Complete 10-year plan & building upgrades (prioritize)

Joint Task Force (Council & Board of Education)

Repackage referendum and sell it

WPCA management improvements

- Billing Process

Continue to implement Roads 2015

- Examine roads specs (manholes and paving)

Revisit escarpment & waterway maintenance

- Sharp Street
- Cooper Street

Public Safety

Fund school security plan

Headquarters renovation

Expand use of solar crosswalks

Thompsonville policing strategy

Leadership continuity/transition plan

Continuation of opioid task force

FY 16/17 BUDGET DISCUSSION OF PARAMETERS

Mr. Erdmann explained the FY 16/17 Budget parameters.

Mr. Wilcox then spoke about a draft of a three-year financial forecast. He explained the assumptions behind the projections on the handout. He noted a 22% increase in health insurance is anticipated.

Mr. Erdmann stated the Board of Education plans to submit a budget tomorrow night. He noted the Board of Education's proposed budget would result in a two mill increase by itself. He stated the Town Council will get the Town Manager's proposed budget on March 21st.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #3522 by Councilor Szewczak, seconded by Councilor Stokes to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #3522** adopted 7-0-0, and the meeting stood adjourned at 9:00 p.m.